



Author Spotlight Dorothea Benton Frank

Dorothea Benton Frank was born and raised on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. A *New York Times* bestselling author, she is a nationally recognized volunteer fundraiser for the arts and education, and an advocate of literacy programs and women's issues.

Dot Frank grew up on Sullivan's Island, married a New Yorker and settled in New Jersey. Before she started writing, she worked as a fashion buyer in New York City. She returned to South Carolina regularly for visits until her mother died, and she and her siblings had to sell their family home.

After her mother's death, writing down her memories of home was a private, therapeutic act for Frank. But as her stack of computer printouts grew, she began to try to shape them into a novel. Eventually a friend introduced her to the novelist Fern Michaels, who helped her polish her manuscript and find an agent for it.

Frank's first "Lowcountry tale," *Sullivan's Island*, made it to the *New York Times* bestseller list. Its quirky characters and tangled family relationships drew comparisons to the works of fellow southerners Anne Rivers Siddons and Pat Conroy. But while Conroy's novels are heavily angst-ridden, Frank sweetens her dysfunctional family tea with humor and a gabby, just-between-us-girls tone. To her way of thinking, there's a gap between serious literary fiction and standard beach-blanket fare that needs to be filled.

"I don't always want to read serious fiction," she explained to *The Sun News* of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. "But when I read fiction that's not serious, I don't want to read brain candy. Entertain me, for God's sake." Frank has followed her own advice, entertaining thousands of readers with books Pat Conroy calls "hilarious and wise."

So what else? "I am ecstatically happy with my delicious husband Peter, and adore my two children, Victoria and William down to their last freckles. I have two Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Henry and Buster who are as cute as cookies. I play awful tennis, cheat at cards to make my children laugh, speak emergency French and Italian - lots of gesturing, love to cook and entertain. I also garden like mad, still love to visit Sullivan's Island as often as possible, and am always looking for an adventure. I still read like a lunatic - favorite authors are the ones I shamelessly tortured to give me endorsements for my book - John Berendt, Pat Conroy, Bret Lott, Fern Michaels, and Ann Rivers Siddons. I'm always on a diet and admit to being slightly neurotic. If I could have anything in the world, it would be to pick up my entire life and drop it on the beach at Sullivan's Island. Writing is the next best thing."



Visit Dorothea Benton Frank's website at www.dotfrank.com

Books by Dorothea Benton Frank

Sullivan's Island
Plantation
Isle of Palms
Pawley's Island
Shem Creek
Full of Grace – May 2006

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